



Citizens Clean Elections Commission Bulletin

Volume 3, Quarter 1

February 2006

Message from the Chair



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Welcome to the 2006 first quarter edition of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission Bulletin. It is hard to believe, but another election cycle is upon us which means \$5 qualifying contributions, signatures and so much more. As the 2006 election cycle gears up I want to take this opportunity to make everyone aware that the Commissioners and staff are here to help. If there are questions, please never hesitate to contact the office and ask.

One of the Commission's goals in 2006 is to increase voter education during the upcoming election cycle. To do this we have approved taping and playing the up coming legislative and statewide debates on our website (www.azcleanelections.gov) as well as hosting almost 30 public candidate and treasurer workshops. The workshops are mandatory for all participating candidates, but they are a great opportunity to ask questions and to get a better understanding of the law. I would encourage anyone that has questions to attend.

I would like to take a moment to thank Commissioner Kathleen Detrick for her service to the Commission and to the residents of Arizona. Commissioner Detrick's appointment expired at the end of January. Her dedication to Clean Elections and to all of Arizona is unsurpassed. I know I speak for all of the Commissioners when I wish her the very best in her future endeavors. There is no doubt that she will be missed.

The Commission looks forward to the upcoming election season and wishes all candidates the very best of luck.

Marcia Busching
Chair

This Bulletin is intended to be an informational tool used to update parties regarding the Commissions' projects and developments. If you have further questions, feel free to call the Commission directly and speak with any staff member at 1-602-364-3477 or toll free at 1-877-631-8891. As a state agency, we are here to serve you.

State of Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission

Contact Information:
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(602) 364-3487, fax
1-877-631-8891, toll free
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The Act and the Commission

The Citizens Clean Elections Act (Act) is a campaign finance reform measure that was initiated by Arizona citizens and passed by voters in 1998. The Act creates a new campaign financing system that provides full public funding to qualified candidates who agree to abide by the Act and Commission rules. The 2005-2006 election cycle is the fourth election season in which candidates could run a political campaign under the Act.

Governed by the laws of the State of Arizona, the Citizens Clean Elections Commission (Commission) has been created to implement and enforce campaign finance laws and to promote voter education through candidate debates and a Candidate Statement Pamphlet. The Act allows the Commission to provide procedures for the inspection of a candidate's bank account, campaign finance reports and financial records relating to the candidate's campaign. To qualify for funding, the voluntary "participating candidates" must adhere to spending and contribution limits and gather \$5 qualifying contributions from district constituents who are registered voters.

Participating candidates are required to attend debates.



New Additions

The Citizens Clean Elections Commission welcomed Mike Becker on November 7th as the new voter education manager. He replaces Autumn Southard who left the post in October 2005. Becker will primarily serve as the Commission's public information officer to the public, media and elected officials, as well as implement and manage the Commission's annual education program outreaching to Arizona citizens about the Clean Elections Act. Additionally, Becker is responsible for organizing the Commission's legislative and statewide candidate debates, as well as managing all marketing, public relations and advertising programs. "Mike brings a breadth of knowledge and experience to the Commission staff and we are very pleased to add such a skilled and experienced individual to our team," said Todd Lang, executive director of the Commission. "We look forward to working with Mike to implement his fresh ideas, and continue to increase Clean Elections awareness and education among Arizona citizens." Before joining the Commission, Becker served as chief of staff for Maricopa County Supervisor Don Stapley for four years, acting as the chief liaison to state, local and federal elected officials, as well as coordinating all community events and media related activities. Additionally, Becker brings first-hand experience in statewide politics and elections after serving as finance director for the Arizona Republican Party. Becker's experience also includes executive assistant work with Congressman John Shadegg (R-Ariz.) and former Congressman Bill Paxon (R-New York).

Mike received his bachelor's degree in Political Science from Canisius College in Buffalo, New York.

Please visit the Citizens Clean Elections Commission website at www.azcleelections.gov to view the latest Commission news. You may also access publications such as the Act, Rules & Policies Manual.

While you are visiting the Commission website, please take a moment to sign up to receive e-mail newsletters at www.azcleelections.gov/linkto.asp?linkId=47.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Voter Education Manager, Mike Becker, at (602) 364-3477, extension 210.

Topic of the Quarter

Mandatory Participating Candidate & Treasurer Workshops

R2-20-104(D) - “If certified as a participating candidate, the candidate shall...Attend at least one candidate training class sponsored by the Commission, and cause the candidate’s campaign treasurer to attend at least one candidate training class, during the election cycle. If the candidate or the treasurer is unable to attend a training class, the candidate or treasurer shall:

a. Notify the Commission that the candidate or treasurer is unable to attend a training class. The Commission will then send that person the Commission training materials; and

The candidate or treasurer shall sign and send to the Commission a statement certifying that he or she has received and reviewed the Commission training materials.”

Dates, Locations and Times for the 2006 **Participating Candidate Workshops**:

February 8, 2006	6:00pm - 8:00pm	CCEC Conference Room	1616 W. Adams Phoenix
February 15, 2006	6:00pm - 8:00pm	NAU duBois Center/Bldg. 64 Agassiz Rm	Flagstaff
March 8, 2006	6:00pm - 8:00pm	CCEC Conference Room	1616 W. Adams Phoenix
March 15, 2006	6:00pm - 8:00pm	Mohave CC	Kingman

Dates, Locations and Times for the 2006 **Treasurer Workshops**:

February 22, 2006	6:00pm - 8:00pm	CCEC Conference Room	1616 W. Adams Phoenix
March 1, 2006	6:00pm - 8:00pm	NAU duBois Center/Bldg. 64 Agassiz Rm	Flagstaff
March 22, 2006	6:00pm - 8:00pm	CCEC Conference Room	1616 W. Adams
March 29, 2006	6:00pm - 8:00pm	UofA Memorial Student Union, Tubac Rm 4th Floor	1303 University Blvd.

*** This Workshop is both a Participating Candidate AND Treasurer workshop***

To sign up for a Candidate Workshop, please go to:

<http://www.azcleanelections.gov/linkto.asp?linkId=222>

To sign up for a Treasurer Workshop, please go to:

<http://www.azcleanelections.gov/linkto.asp?linkId=223>

Director's Corner

As a nation we are governed by the rule of law, therefore we all must abide by the rules and when necessary face the repercussions that arise from breaking these rules. This becomes evident when it comes to our elected officials and our form of government. Since the founding of our republic, the fundamental notion that this nation and its government were “created by the people, for the people and of the people” has been held in the highest regard. But in recent decades problems have grown larger. To some, money replaced the need for contact with voters. Fundraisers replaced neighborhood walks. As a result, in 1998 the citizens of Arizona attempted to do something about that by enacting the Citizens Clean Elections Act. When the People of Arizona enacted the Citizens Clean Elections Commission, they made a strong statement about the status of our Democracy. The Act is a reaffirmation by Arizonans that we want our government to work as it was intended from the start. Our legislators should be beholden to the voters, not to powerful lobbyists or “special interests.” As we have moved through the years there is no question that we have experienced our ups and downs. But we continue to move forward. We learn from our mistakes of the past so that we may have a brighter future. The latest ruling by the Arizona Supreme Court upheld the Commission’s decision to enforce rules that required Mr. David Smith to leave office. This ruling required Mr. Smith to keep his promise to the Commission and to the voters — that he would abide by the rules when he takes public funding. I believe that the Commission is moving in the right direction, but there is still plenty of work to be done from educating the candidates and voters to reassessing and improving the rules and policies that make up the Clean Elections law. But this is not something that the Commission can do on its own; we need your help. We need your input and ideas so that everyday, every month and every year we can continue to make Clean Elections in to what the people envisioned when it was passed in 1998. We look forward to your input.

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Thank you very much for taking the
time to read our first quarter *Bulletin*!
The *Bulletin* is published once a quarter
and is posted on the Commission's web-
site.

Visit us on the Web!
www.azcleanelections.gov

2006 First Quarter Commission Meeting Schedule

Citizens Clean Elections Commission

Commissioners

Marcia Busching, Chair
Ermila Jolley
Gary Scaramazzo

Commission meetings are held in the Citizens Clean Elections Commission conference room at 1616 W. Adams in Phoenix.

Please contact the Commission or check the Commission website, www.azcleanelections.gov to confirm meeting dates and times.

The Commission meeting minutes and agendas are available free of charge on the Commission website. Additionally, past minutes and agendas are posted on the website.

Upcoming Meetings

March

3/2/06

Thursday, 9:30am

3/30/06

Thursday, 9:30am

Please refer to www.azcleanelections.gov
for agendas & additional documents